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of five years the viability of some of them has been tested. After twenty years in the soil, nine species, all common weeds, germinated, the percentage varying from 2 to 58, while thirteen species failed to grow, — as appears from a note in the September number of the *Journal* of the Columbus Horticultural Society.

From a recent article in *Gartenflora* it appears that at the great St. Petersburg botanical garden 24,176 species and varieties of plants are cultivated, the herbarium contains over a million and a half specimens, and the library consists of 14,040 works, bound in 27,588 volumes.

PALEONTOLOGY.

The Later Extinct Floras of North America.¹ — In the preface Dr. Hollick explains the conditions under which this posthumous work of Professor Newberry's was prepared for the press. An edition of twenty-five plates was issued without text in 1878, under the title, *Illustrations of Cretaceous and Tertiary Plants of the Western Territories of the United States*. Subsequently a revised edition of these, with forty-three additional plates, was printed, but not distributed, being withheld for the completion of the text. Professor Newberry's death stopped further progress on the work. Two sets of the plates bore manuscript names. From these plates, Professor Newberry's manuscript, the labels on type specimens, and Professor Newberry's previous publications, the present text was compiled. This was evidently a laborious undertaking carefully carried out, as evinced by the text and occasional editorial notes.

One hundred and seventy-four species are figured and are described in the text, with the exception of some species of which the editor found no manuscript or other descriptions by Professor Newberry. The plates are beautifully executed. The species described are all from the Cretaceous and Tertiary formations, and are from the Western States and Territories, excepting *Sequoia gracillima*, described as also from New Jersey, and *Salix membranacea*, described from New Jersey only. Six new species are described, namely, *Abietites cretacea*, *Sabal grandifolia*, *Myrica* (?) *trifoliata*, *Salix foliosa*,

¹ Newberry, John Strong. *The Later Extinct Floras of North America*, a posthumous work, edited by Arthur Hollick. Monograph of the U. S. Geological Survey, vol. xxxv, pp. i-xvii, 1-295, Pls. I-LXVIII. Washington, 1898.

Alnus serrulata fossilis, and *Magnolia elliptica*. A few new names or new combinations occur due to the necessities of nomenclature or corrections in generic reference. Many of Professor Newberry's species are figured for the first time. An important feature is the figures of several specimens which are the originals of tracings sent to Professor Heer, and from which that author published new species. These are *Populus litigiosa*, *Leguminosites marcouanus*, *Sapotacites haydenii*, and *Phyllites obcordatus*. In a table is given a list of localities from which specimens came as mentioned in the text.

It is most desirable in publication to state in what museums specimens described are located, and the absence of such information in this volume is an unfortunate omission. The undesirable tendency to consider species as distinct, simply because they occur in different geological horizons, is shown in several places, as under *Salix meekii* Newberry, of the Dakota Group, Cretaceous, where the author says that this species has a resemblance to several Tertiary species, "... from which it might be unwise to regard it as distinct if they were from the same formation." Similarly it is undesirable to give a separate name to fossils when their characters are so close to living forms that they are systematically indistinguishable. Cases in which this is done are *Onoclea sensibilis fossilis*, *Corylus rostrata fossilis*, *Alnus serrulata fossilis*. The description of fossil forms "indistinguishable" from living forms, as stated in several cases, raises an objection to the title of the volume, *The Later Extinct Floras of North America*. Species of fossil plants, as of fossil animals, should be based on the characters they present, independently of how long they may have lived, as represented by the lapse of geological time.

R. T. J.

Coal Measure Plants.¹—In the course of publications by Williamson, Scott, Seward, and others, frequent reference has been made to the Binney collection of fossil plants which was presented to the Woodwardian Museum at Cambridge, England, in 1892. Although some of the species have been repeatedly investigated during the last few decades, the collection embraces other species which illustrate important morphological points hitherto overlooked, and thus afford valuable evidence of a phylogenetic character. Mr. Seward has undertaken to indicate the nature of the data he has gathered from the collection, and thereby places in the hands of working paleo-

¹ Seward, A. C. Notes on the Binney Collection of Coal Measure Plants, *Proc. Cambridge Phil. Soc.*, vol. x, iii, pp. 137.